

**BUT THE SPIRITS DIDN'T GET PROMISED DIVORCE.**

**Mrs. Brandes Causes Arrest of Man and Woman Who Aided Her. Says, as Medium's Agents—Victim Never Saw Clairvoyant but Paid for "Funeral."**

Mrs. Mary Brandes, who is 38 years old and the mother of two children, parted with over \$20,000, she says, in an unsuccessful effort to obtain a divorce from her husband, William, through psychic influence.

"I didn't want the notoriety of a trial in court," she said yesterday, "and when I was told that a clairvoyant could get a divorce without any bother and I wouldn't have to go to court I just gave him my good money and got nothing for it at all."

Mrs. Brandes lives at 17 East Eighty-seventh street. Her father, William Wilkins, owned the Van Twiller Hotel at Lexington avenue and Twenty-fifth street. When he died she was one of the heirs of the estate and she is said to have an income of \$200 a month from the estate.

Her husband, from whom she has been separated for about five years, runs a café at Columbus avenue and Ninety-third street.

She went to Police Headquarters two weeks ago and in a talk with Inspector McCafferty said she had decided that a certain woman and man had imposed on her. She said that they were Della Hoff, a nurse, and Jacob Lamendorf, a very intimate friend of the nurse's. Detectives Wilbur and Allen were put on the case, but had some difficulty in finding the nurse and her friend. The detectives arrested the man and woman yesterday and took them to the Yorkville police station, where Mrs. Brandes appeared and made a charge of larceny against them.

The specific complaint in the affidavit was that on December 11, 1907, the defendants obtained \$10,000 from the complainant on the false pretence that they would obtain a decree of divorce for her.

The nurse is 30 years old, a good looking, muscular woman. She was born in Ireland and lives at 231 East Twenty-sixth street. Lamendorf is 31 years old, a native of Germany and used to be a professional nurse. He gave his address as 40 Seventh street.

The detectives searched the woman's trunk and found a quantity of jewelry that might be worth about \$2,000 and two bank books. The pass books represented a considerable deposit in the banks, just how much the detectives would not say.

When the prisoners were arraigned before Magistrate O'Connor Mrs. Brandes stepped up to the court bridge. She is a handsome woman slightly above medium height.

Now did you come to give up this \$10,000? Magistrate O'Connor asked her. "It was for the clairvoyant to get me a divorce," she responded. "If I had only seen \$10,000 I never would have given it. I handed out the money like a simpleton every time they asked for it. And I don't think there was any clairvoyant at all. Miss Goff was completely hypnotized and was the clairvoyant and they just used a spell over me and extracted the money by the hundreds and thousands of dollars. I was completely hypnotized and did just as they told me to do when they wanted money."

Going back to the beginning, she said that nine years ago she was advised to take massage treatment. Miss Goff was engaged as the operator. That was the beginning of their acquaintance. She was then living at the Madison Arms. Her treatment gave her relief and she acquired confidence in the nurse.

When she had a return of her old trouble four years ago she sent for Miss Goff to treat her and so their acquaintance was continued. During the treatment Mrs. Brandes spoke of her family troubles and told the nurse that she suspected her husband of flirting with other women. She had been unable to obtain any proof of it.

"Why not try a spiritualistic medium to learn the truth?" suggested the nurse. Mrs. Brandes said she knew any medium and wasn't sure that they could help her anyway. The nurse told her, she says, that there was in the city a medium named Barker, who could accomplish the most wonderful things in the way of promoting love, financial success and other things. The nurse said that she was well acquainted with the medium and suggested to her employer that she seek her aid, saying that the seeress would be able to obtain proof as to the husband's faithfulness or faithfulness.

The complainant declared that she was convinced by the nurse's argument and consented to enlist the medium's powers. Miss Goff was to conduct the seances for the employer's behalf and report progress. She did so and reported that the medium had gone into a trance and had seen William Wilkins talking to a dark woman on a dark street one dark night, but couldn't give any further particulars at that seance, for which she wanted \$25. Mrs. Brandes gave the fee to the nurse, who for the next month had three seances a week at \$25 per seance without getting any definite information.

Mrs. Brandes began to get impatient. The nurse told her that the medium had advised a \$100 seance, at which her mystic powers would have full swing. The seances were accepted, the money turned over to the nurse, who reported the next day that the spirits said that one Sadie Brown was the siren, without giving Miss Brown's address or anything tangible by which she might be accused in court. Mrs. Brandes was anxious to find out who this Brown woman was and was willing to pay for the information. So again the nurse was told to come to some agreement with the seeress. She did, for \$10,000 the seeress was willing and able to gather the necessary evidence of the husband's steps aside and on it to obtain a divorce for the wronged wife.

"And did you really believe that?" the Magistrate asked the complainant. "Why, yes. I didn't want the notoriety of going to court and they said they would get my divorce in secret," she responded. "I made out a check for the amount and offered it to Miss Goff. She said the medium would not take check and she wanted spot cash. I drew ten \$1,000 bills from the bank and gave them to her. That was on December 11, 1907."

"Was the medium to get the divorce through Miss Goff in your understanding of it?" the Court asked. "Yes, sir, with the aid of a psychic power for summoning witnesses, Lamendorf was to help also. Lamendorf used to come to my home with Miss Goff."

"I waited some weeks, but not getting the divorce I spoke to the nurse about it. She and Lamendorf said there was some occult difficulty in the way and the medium wanted \$1,000 more to remove the obstacle. I didn't have the money handy and spoke to the nurse who keeps a café. I made a mortgage for \$500 on the estate and pawned some of my jewelry for the other \$500 and gave the money to Lamendorf."

The spirits had more wrestling to do with that obstacle even after the additional \$1,000 was paid and the divorce was not forthcoming. But the demands for money kept right on. One day the nurse reported that Mrs. Barker was seriously sick and it required extra good medical aid to pull her through and such aid was expensive. If the medium was not saved from the grave there would be no secret divorce.

Mrs. Brandes says she gave up the \$500. The next day the nurse took and then she was as she reported that Mrs. Barker was dead. The nurse thought it would be good policy to have a good friend in spirit land and suggested that this could be brought about by giving the funeral expenses of the seeress a high class funeral.

That would cost \$1,000. Mrs. Brandes paid for the funeral, she says. "Did you ever see this medium that was to do so much for you?" Magistrate O'Connor asked the complainant. "No, sir, I never did. I wanted to consult her myself, but they always pretended that when I insisted upon seeing Mrs. Barker, Lamendorf would say that I must not insist or the spell would be broken. He said that there was a mystic envelope about the seeress of them, the medium, he said the nurse, and that if a fourth person intruded the charm would be broken and I would not get my divorce."

After Mrs. Barker's "death" another medium was decided upon and the calls for money kept right on, the complainant declared. The nurse expressed her belief that some marmalade sent to the house contained poison, and said that it ought to be analyzed. It would cost \$50. The money was paid. The next day there was a report that the marmalade contained poison enough to kill five persons and detectives ought to be hired to trace the culprit. This would cost \$500. It was paid.

The time came when Mrs. Brandes completely lost patience over her failure to get her promised divorce and then the nurse and the nurse's friend dropped out of sight. Mrs. Brandes said that she pondered over the matter for a long time before deciding to go to the police. The Magistrate adjourned the case until Tuesday and held the prisoners in \$7,500 bail each for examination.

Another M. Shine, a hotel keeper of 71 West Thirty-sixth street, offered to go security. The Magistrate said he would not accept bail until it had been approved by the District Attorney. That couldn't be done yesterday and the prisoners were locked up. Miss Goff told the reporters that she had accepted no money from Mrs. Brandes except what was due for professional services. "All the money I got from her I earned," the woman said with a smile.

**TWO LETTERS FROM HIS WIFE**

**ARCHITECT STODDART SUMITS THEM TO A CANDID WORLD.**

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Stoddart, who is a member of the National Arts Club, is 41 years old, and his wife is 33. They were married in Georgia in 1898 and Mrs. Stoddart left her husband last July, soon after they had moved to the city from Maywood, N. J., where they had lived for several years. Mrs. Stoddart says in an affidavit that she "strove hard for many years, suffering both physically and mentally, to keep the home of her husband and to live with the plaintiff," but that she finally found her health being impaired by the acts and words of her husband. She said she was forced to seek a new home and, having no resources but her musical education, went to Reno, where she thought she would be able to live by her efforts. She said she sang at the University of Nevada commencement exercises last June and pleased her hearers so much that she was invited to sing in all the churches in Reno.

In his affidavit Stoddart declares that his wife's real motive for going to Reno is not disclosed by her in her moving papers. He said he ascertained that her intention in going to Reno was to procure an absolute divorce on the ground of "coldness, indifference, lack of affection, disrespect, closeness in pecuniary matters, torments of abuse, scoldings, faultfindings, criticisms, taunts and general humiliation causing physical and mental anguish."

Stoddart says that his wife's action in starting divorce proceedings "is the culmination of the acts of the defendant and one Robert L. Shape, a former friend and associate of the plaintiff, which resulted in complete estrangement. Shape is an architect at 7 East Forty-second street. Stoddart said he had agreed to his wife's request for a separation if the children were brought where he could see them, on the one condition that his wife's affection for Shape die silently and forever."

This letter, written by Mrs. Stoddart to her husband in 1907, is attached to his papers: MY DEAR WILL: I feel sure that the suggestion I offered recently in regard to our future is advisable. I have no reason to feel that my affection will ever be changed after living apart for a year. We will both have time to decide how much or how little we can concede wisely to one another. The domestic life itself has been a failure. The essence of practical happiness is the deep and hidden feeling of the soul which can no more be forced than can a butterfly be caged. It is this feeling that uplifts and keeps marriage from becoming hopelessly commonplace. Without having seen it in any of those immediately surrounding my girlhood I have cherished it and have never yet given up my idea. If I had been more matter of fact I dare say I could have reconstructed my life to fit your needs, to be a greater help to you, to be a more perfect wife. But I am not. I am perfectly willing, if you are, to fitly state we are not suited to one another and have decided to part. You can say I asked for a separation and you granted it. I do not see why we need degrade ourselves or become enemies because we have made a mistake in marriage. Let me say another. I shall hope and pray that you may act on my decision. My sympathy goes out to you, but people with as decided opinions as you and I need a tremendous love to make life together at all possible. Sincerely and sadly yours, ELIZABETH.

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**COUNSELMAN DIVORCE A FRAUD**

**Chicago Clubman's Wife Was in Anytown When He Said She Deserted Him.**

CHICAGO, Nov. 27.—Judge Chetlain announced to-night that he would begin at once an investigation of what may result in the annulment of the divorce alleged to have been obtained by fraud by Willie Counselman from his insane wife. The annulment of Counselman's marriage to Miss Clara French would follow. He also sent a communication to Joseph Defrees, president of the Chicago Bar Association, asking him to investigate the conduct of attorneys in the case.

"I will not alone and investigate what I believe to be a fraud perpetrated upon my court," he said. "If the facts are what they now seem I shall certainly annul the divorce. I have asked the Bar Association to act only as a matter of public protection. If any lawyer has taken part in such proceedings he should be disbarred."

Judge Chetlain entered an order calling upon Counselman and his wife to appear and show cause why the decree should not be set aside. No date has been set when the order is returnable, but it was stated that the order was entered so that the record might be kept clear and for the further reason that Judge Chetlain might retain jurisdiction in the matter without any question which may be raised later.

After Mr. Defrees received Judge Chetlain's letter he notified Richard S. Folsom, chairman of the association's grievance committee, to immediately confer with Judge Chetlain and report to him Monday morning.

Mr. Folsom conferred with Judge Chetlain late this afternoon and prepared a report for the Bar Association. He examined transcripts of the evidence in which Counselman swore that his wife had deserted him without cause and that he did not know her whereabouts. Proof that she was confined in an insane hospital at the time was taken and the conflicting evidence laid before the attorneys in the case in an attempt to place responsibility on the alleged fraud.

Counselman, who is a well known broker and clubman, married again shortly after securing a decree of divorce, contrary to the laws of Illinois.

**SPAIN TO STAND PAT.** Will Hold and Fortify All the Territory She Now Holds in Morocco.

MADRID, Nov. 27.—Premier Moret, in the course of discussion by the Cabinet of the results of the war in Morocco, stated last evening that Spain does not contemplate any further advance.

The new territory now held by the Spaniards will be protected by 45 strongholds. Native troops will be raised shortly. Meanwhile a portion of the army will remain in occupation.

The Cabinet decided to send to Morocco a technical committee to determine the positions to be fortified. It also decided to publish a Red Book dealing with the campaign.

The Cabinet also decided to recall the army operating in Morocco and to grant furloughs to the reservists.

**BOURBON PRINCE DEAD.** Louis Marie of the Neapolitan House Was Married Morganatically in New York.

NICE, Nov. 27.—Prince Louis Marie Ferdinand Pierre d'Alcantara of Bourbon, Count of Aquila, died here today. He was born in Naples in 1845 and was married morganatically in New York in 1869 to Marie Amelie Hamel, Countess of Rocca-Guglielmo, who was born in Havana in 1847. The couple had a daughter and a son.

Prince Louis lived here for a long time. He was first cousin to the Count de Caserta, claimant to the old kingdom of Naples.

**John Ridgely Carter Coming Home.** Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Nov. 27.—John Ridgely Carter, former Secretary of the American Embassy here and now Minister to the Balkan States, and Mrs. Carter sailed for New York to-day on the steamship Louisiana.

**Teneriffe Volcano Stops.** Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

SANTA CRUZ, Teneriffe, Nov. 27.—The volcanic eruption has stopped.

**POLICEMAN MADE DISCORD** In Souls